

February 2020 / Sh'vat — Adar 5780

Volume 31, Issue 2

**Water and Freedom:
A special Tu BiShvat Seder in honor
of *Shabbat Shirah*
Friday, February 7, at 7:00 pm**



Our community will celebrate Tu BiShvat this year on *Shabbat Shirah*. This 'Sabbath of Singing' celebrates Moses and Miriam leading the Israelites across the Sea of Reeds to find their freedom. This Shabbat gets its name from *Shirat HaYam* (Song of the Sea), the poem in the Torah that is shaped like waves.

Our service will highlight:

- * Traditional Tu BiShvat foods and blessings
- * Contemporary reflections on water and freedom crafted with the help of our Social Action Committee
- * Beautiful musical highlights from our *Shabbat Shirah* Singers, a group of multi-generational voices who have spent time working with Rabbi Kort and Song Leader Extraordinaire, Noah Zeichner.

WZC Elections

The World Zionist Congress Election has begun! This is our only chance to have our voices heard in Israel. Voting in this election is a powerful way to combat the discrimination the Reform Movement faces from the Israeli government. Let's vote for the changes we want to see in Israel. **Voting will take place from January 21 – March 11, 2020.** For more information or to vote go to www.zionistelection.org

To qualify, you must be:

- ◆ 18 years and older (by June 30, 2020)
- ◆ Self-identify as Jewish
- ◆ Agree to the Jerusalem Program, the official platform of the WZO and the Zionish Movement
- ◆ Agree to pay a minimal processing fee.



House of Light

3215 Lombard Ave, Everett, WA 98201

425.259.7125

TempleBethOr.org

Founded 1985



Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah*

Torah

Avodah

*Tzedakah/
Tikkun Olam*

Leadership

Black-Jewish Relations in America

February is Black History Month and the history of Black-Jewish relations in America is rich, complicated, and relevant. As the Reform Movement, we like to highlight our support and role in Civil Rights legislation in the 1960s. But since the 1970s, Black-Jewish relations have broken down. Michael Meyers, executive director of the New York Civil Rights Coalition, explains: "It's true that Jews and Blacks have been allies, but we've also been rivals. To many Jews racial quotas and affirmative action must be distinguished from exclusionary quotas. We have rivalry about housing. We have disagreements about how and where there are double standards in the criminal justice system." We witnessed tensions among our Black and Jewish communities come to a violent head at the end of this past year with the horrible rash of antisemitic attacks in the greater New York area committed by a handful of black individuals.

I am proud to share that I am a part of a group of Black-Jewish clergy in the Puget Sound region working together to rebuild our historic coalition. More than

a dozen rabbis and Black pastors are gathering on a monthly basis to study our shared sacred biblical text through the lens of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings. Black colleagues from this group were among the first to reach out to me in late December to denounce antisemitism and offer prayers of support to our Jewish community.

This past January, our group looked at the story of Jacob's and Esau's reconciliation. Jacob and Esau, to quote one of my Baptist colleagues, "had a real beef." Jacob had wronged Esau by stealing his birthright. After twenty years of estrangement, Jacob and Esau prepare to meet, but first, our Torah teaches that Jacob wrestled with an angel of God. One of our rabbinic sages, Rabbi Chama bar Chanina, believes that the angel is actually Esau (*B'reishit Rabbah* 77:3). What does this interpretation emphasize? According to contemporary rabbi and author, Zoe Klein, "the message is that it is possible to reconcile, that it doesn't take a miracle to heal the rift between siblings."



It will not take a miracle to heal the rift between Blacks and Jews in America. It will take time, work, and wrestling. I would like to conclude with a teaching from Rev. King that pairs beautifully with the story of Jacob and Esau, and frames the monthly meetings of my Black and Jewish clergy colleagues.

"The aftermath of violence is bitterness. The aftermath of non-violence is the creation of believed community, so that when the battle is over, a new relationship comes into being. The end is reconciliation. The end is redemption. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization" ("Power of Non-Violence," 1957).

L'shalom,
Rabbi Rachel Kort
she/her/hers

Rabbi Kort invites you to call upon her for help, support, or just to talk.

Office Hours: Please contact Rabbi Kort directly to make an appointment. She is typically available to meet in Everett on Wednesdays and the Fridays when she is leading Shabbat Services.

Phone: 425.954.1223; Email: RabbiKort@TempleBethOr.org

Rabbi Kort's sermons and writings can be found on the TBO website under "About Us/Rabbi."

First Chapter *Chavurah*

TBOs First Chapter *Chavurah* celebrated Hanukkah in December with a fun-filled party. It was a great success with all the kids playing together while the adults sat and connected. The next event is **February 22**: A Silvertips hockey game! Contact Dan Paquette for details. If you are a Temple member, have children under the age of 18, and would like to be a part of our *Chavurah* please text Michelle Douglass. If you'd like, let her know a month you would like to help plan an event.



Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah*

Torah

Avodah

*Tzedakah/
Tikkun Olam*

Leadership

Taste of Kalsman

Taste of Kalsman is a two day, one night retreat, March 6-7, 2020, for current 1st through 4th grade students to experience Camp Kalsman. Campers will stay in cabins with staff. Staff will accompany campers as they create masterpieces in arts and crafts, sample sports activities, and celebrate a camp Shabbat. Campers will board buses with staff to travel up to camp that Friday afternoon. Campers will celebrate Shabbat together, take a tour of camp, meet new friends and settle in for the night. Saturday will be packed with fun programs. Taste of Kalsman campers' families are invited to come up in the late afternoon on Saturday for a family program, dinner, and *havdalah*.



The retreat cost is \$150 per participant which covers transportation from the Bellevue/Seattle area to camp and all meals and programs throughout the weekend, plus a Taste of Kalsman t-shirt! Parents must pick up campers from camp on Saturday.

To register for Taste of Kalsman, go to https://campkalsman.org/event/taste-of-kalsman/?event_date=2020-03-06 If you have questions call the office: 425.284.4484.

Reminder: Summer Campership are due at the Temple by Thursday, **February 27, 2020. No late applications accepted.**

Explore Israel with Rabbi Kort!

Our cohort is coming together, but there is still an opportunity for you to participate. For more information, please contact Carolyn or Eldon Wexler, or Rabbi Rachel Kort. Visit <http://makorjourneys.com/journey/temple-Beth-or> for a full itinerary and pricing.



Our Rabbi

K'hilah/

Mishpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/

Tikkun Olam

Leadership

Bat Mitzvah Profile: Mallorie Holsten

Mallorie will be called to the Torah on **February 29, 2020.**

Her *Tikkun Olam* project was working with her mom's graphic designer friend to create a logo to place on reusable bags to help reduce the plastic in the oceans so the turtle don't go extinct. A fundraiser was set up to sell the bags and over \$1400.00 is being donated to the VA Beach Stranding Response Program.



"Spotlight on a TBO Family" This Month, Deb Henry

I'm a single mom. My daughter, Victoria, is a senior at WSU studying Digital Technology and Culture. I work fulltime for Microsoft, volunteer as an admin on a parents' Facebook support group for WSU families, maintain the TBO Facebook pages (Temple Beth Or Members and Temple Beth Or) and now I am a Member at Large for the TBO Governing Board.

I joined TBO in 2001 after my younger brother passed away. My family are all located on the East Coast and I was feeling very isolated and alone. Once Victoria was old enough, she started attending the TBO Religious School program. She is one of the few from her class who are still around locally and have a connection with TBO.

I have wonderful memories of Victoria's bat mitzvah. My dad was still living at the time and all my East Coast family flew in for the service and celebration. I have some wonderful family photos to keep my memory fresh. I also have fun memories of participating in several Purimspiels. I was a minor player and it was definitely outside of my comfort zone to sing and act in front of an audience. The camaraderie of the cast was fun and it was a great way to meet other members.

For many years it was just Victoria and me at home and our celebrations were small. When she was younger we would go back east to spend Passover with our family. That became more difficult once she was in elementary and secondary grades. She's been away to university for four years and during that time I would have been very isolated if not for the friendship and support of my TBO family.

I decided to rejoin the Board (I had served in the past) as a way to reconnect with the Temple, and to meet all the wonderful members who have joined over the past few years. I want to attend more services, events, and activities.

Deb Henry

Look for information coming to you in the next few weeks regarding our participation in the URJ Congregational Benchmarking and Assessment Project. We will need a large percentage of member participation in the congregational survey to make this a successful tool for strategic planning (SP), learning more about ourselves, best practices, and setting goals. See page 6 for more SP info.

Service Schedule For February

Friday, February 7
Shabbat Shirah and
Tu BiShvat Seder
7:00 pm
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leaders
Noah Zeichner and
TBO Shabbat Shirah
Singers

Saturday,
February 15
Morning Shabbat
Service
10:00 am
Led by
Heidi Piel
Music Leader
Judy Magidson

Friday, February 21
Evening Shabbat
Service and Board
Installation
7:30 pm
Led by
Rabbi Kort
Music Leader
Al Friedman

Saturday,
February 29
Morning Shabbat
Service and Mallorie
Holsten Bat Mitzvah
10:00 am
Led by
Rabbi Kort and
Mallorie Holsten
Music Leader
Noah Zeichner

Social Action

Jewish Community Lobby Day
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

Join your Jewish community for a chance to make your voice heard in Olympia! This is an opportunity to live out our Jewish values. We will be advocating on issues from our community agenda such as combating hate and discrimination, protecting immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers, preventing gun violence, and more. Please contact Naomi Katsh Barger or the Temple office to arrange carpools. Check-in time is 8:30 AM. The plan is to carpool down and meet at Temple Beth Hafiloh, 201 8th Ave. SE, Olympia.

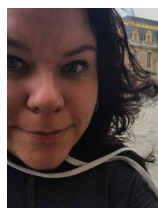
Tzedakah Box Recipient:

Continuing our water theme from Tu BiShvat, the Tzedakah Box recipient for January through March is **Northwest Stream**



**& NORTHWEST
STREAM CENTER**

Center and Adopt a Stream Foundation. Their mission is to teach people how to become stewards of our watershed and ensure that PNW streams continue to provide healthy habitats for wildlife, clean drinking water, and offer environmental education.



Sarah's Shtick

November 1988 saw a race of Bush versus Dukakis. A Motorola cell phone was \$2500, 10 inches tall and had a battery life of 1 hour. At Temple Beth Or, the Board passed a motion to establish a Temple Mitzvah Corps, and the following delicious recipe was in the *ORacle*.

During an office scanning project I came across a previously unknown stash of *ORacles* from 1989. It was fun to see so many of the same members we have today.

Cabbage Borscht

From the *Beth Or Cookbook*

1 large beet, peeled and chopped
1 large onion, peeled and chopped
2 carrots, grated
¼ small white cabbage, thinly sliced
2 ½ T butter
2 tomatoes, skinned and chopped
2 potatoes peeled and diced
salt and pepper to taste
sour cream or yogurt

Place beet, onion, carrot, and cabbage in a saucepan with butter. Cover with 9 cups of water and bring to a boil. Add tomatoes and seasonings and simmer for 90 minutes. Add potatoes and simmer another 30 minutes. Serve hot with sour cream or yogurt.

Sarah's Update for 2020: : I made this in my Instantpot. It was delicious! I added 2 Tablespoons of dill. I spent a summer living in Ukraine and it was all about the dill in the borscht. In the Instantpot, saute ingredients with butter as you chop. Use 10 minutes high pressure with a quick release.

Our Rabbi

*K'hilah/
Mishpachah*

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/

Tikkun

Olam

Leadership

Our Rabbi

K'hilah/

Mishpachah

Torah

Avodah

Tzedakah/

Tikkun Olam

Leadership

Leadership Nus

Report from the Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is back on track after a hectic December. We plan to work in conjunction with the Governing Board to execute a **Congregational Benchmarking and Assessment Project** offered by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). It requires as many members as possible to respond to a digital questionnaire. We also will schedule focus groups regarding community building, programming, and facilities. Your participation in the Benchmarking project and focus groups will provide critical input for a future TBO strategic plan.

After the duplex fire, the SPC concentrated on our facilities. The burned-out duplex on the north lot has been demolished and removed. Further decisions regarding the north lot depend on the outcome of our insurance claim on the duplex. In order to maximize the claim, we need to present to the insurance company plans, specifications, and bids from contractors to replace the duplex with a new rental building. We have met with the city of Everett to understand the code requirements and have met with a local architect to get a price for the necessary design work. **Please note: this does not mean that we plan to rebuild the rental building.** Rather, we are doing what is necessary to maximize our insurance claim and determine the amount that the insurance company will pay us to rebuild. This process could take several months. The next step will be to negotiate with the insurance company regarding how many dollars we would receive if we do not build rentals, but rather took cash or built a building that meets the needs of the congregation. Once we get that information, we will be ready to make some informed decisions.

The informed decision which is first and foremost is: Are we committed to the Lombard campus as the future home for Temple Beth Or? What is out there as an alternative and is it affordable and in a reasonable location? Eldon Wexler did an initial evaluation which he presented at the last membership meeting. What is the potential of the Lombard campus? What types of new building(s) can or should we build? How much might they cost? Can they provide an income stream? How much parking can the campus provide with a well-developed plan? Should we borrow money? What is the potential of a capital campaign to raise money for new construction?

I believe that all or most of these questions should be answered before we ask ourselves, "Should we stay or should we go?" These all might be hypothetical questions were it not for the fact that we have money coming from the insurance claim. As destructive as fires are, they also initiate new life and new beginnings. The SPC looks forward to getting your input from the URJ Benchmarking survey and the focus groups.

Paul Vexler

Temple Leadership

Rabbi

Rachel Kort

Governing Board

President

Vicky Romero

VP of Finance & Facilities
Management

Bob Goodmark

VP of Community &
Engagement

Tim Douglass

VP of Jewish Life

Jennifer Cail

Assist. VP of Finance ...

Ken Moses

Assist. VP of Community...

Wanda Bresnick

Assist. VP of Jewish Life

David Gross

Board Secretary

Tina Roth

Members-At-Large

Beth Burstein Fine

Janis Warner

Deb Henry

President-Elect

Melanie Field

Committees

Adult Education Heidi Piel

Bereavement Susan Cross

Calendar Janis Warner

Communications Al Friedman

Financial Administrator

Norm Black

First Chapter Michelle Douglass

High Holy Days Debra Lawson

Mitzvah Corps Vicki Schwartz

Next Chapter Sonia Siegel Vexler

ORacle Vicky Romero

ORbits Lori Wolff

Religious Practices Vacant

Social Action Naomi Katsh

Website JonaRose Feinberg

Youth Education Jessica Hill

Staff

Religious School Principal

Amy Paquette

Office Administrator

Sarah Davis

February 2020

Sh'vat — Adar 5780

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Religious School Governing Board Mtg. 10:15am-12:15pm PUD Bldg.	3 Finance Committee Mtg. 6:30pm	4	5	6	7 RS Wine and Cheese Registration 6:00pm Family Shabbat <i>Shirah</i> and Tu BiShvat Seder 7:00pm	8
9 Religious School	10	11	12 <i>Atidaynu</i> Leadership Program 5:30 dinner 6-9:00pm class	13 LIFE & LEGACY Mtg. 2:00pm	14 Religious School Event 7:00pm	15 Morning Shabbat Service 10:00am
16 No Religious School	17	18	19	20	21 Evening Shabbat Service and Board Installation 7:30pm	22 First Chapter <i>Chavurah</i> Event
23 No Religious School	24	25 Jewish Community Lobbying Day in Olympia	26	27 TBO Campership Scholarship applications due	28	29 Morning Shabbat Service and Mallory Holsten Bat Mitzvah 10:00

During times of inclement weather, the Temple will put a message on the answering machine (425.259.7125) and send an ORbits notification regarding weather-related closures. As weather patterns vary widely in our region, please also use your own judgement in deciding the safety of traveling to Temple.



Temple Beth Or
3215 Lombard Ave
Everett, WA 98201
425.259.7125

Return Service Requested

Temple Beth Or Mission Statement

Temple Beth Or is a warm, compassionate, vibrant, spirited, inclusive, and participatory Reform Jewish community.

We are religiously and geographically diverse,

serving the northern Puget Sound region of Washington State.

As God's covenantal partners in fulfilling mitzvot, our priorities are:

- ***K'hilah*** (community)/***Mishpachah*** (family) — nurturing our interactive, multigenerational extended family;
- ***Torah*** — lifelong learning, searching for meaning, and seeking comfort and healing;
 - ***Avodah*** — worship and celebration through the observance of meaningful, creative, and traditional rituals;
- ***Tikkun Olam*** — transforming ourselves and our world through *tzedakah* (fairness), social justice, and *g'milut chasadim* (acts of loving kindness).